

# 58 (RWA)

## LAKE BETHANY

*Bethany, CT*

A Regional Water Authority (RWA) Recreation Area – the Lake Bethany Trail System includes four miles of scenic trails that follow the lake shore and a scenic ravine carved out by the West River. The trails at Lake Bethany are located both north and south of Hatfield Hill Road. The Lake Trail on the east side of the lake crosses an old field that once grew hay for the water company's draft horses. The field is now planted with white pine, larch and Norway spruce. Look for a large boulder called a glacial erratic. This boulder was pushed here by a glacier more than 15,000 years ago. The west side of the Lake Trail is a bird watcher's delight with habitat that includes maturing and medium-sized maple and birch, alternating with tall pines and clearings.

dominated by blackberries, goldenrod, and meadowweet. The Tamarack tree, also called the American Larch, is one of the only native conifers that drop all their needles every fall. The trees along the Tamarack Trail are actually European Larch, a close relative. The Hemlock Trail has majestic hemlock spires further along its path. Nearly all of southern Connecticut was once cleared for farming, including some of these steep, rocky slopes. Farming was discontinued early here, and trees quickly returned that, protected in this ravine, have grown taller than on surrounding land. Of all the trails in the Regional Water Authority's system, the West River Trail feels the most like Vermont. The trail follows moderate grades and offers

a delightful view through the trees of the West River. As you hike, notice pieces of quartzite, a white mineral, in the stone walls and schist bedrock. Lastly, the River's Edge Spur drops steeply to the river, providing a short, but challenging hike down to the water's edge.

*John Gustafson*

*Photo by the RWA Photo Contest Winner*



### South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority Recreation Area - PERMIT REQUIRED

#### Directions and Parking:

The Lake Bethany gated entrance and parking area is located along Hatfield Hill Road adjacent to the overhead power lines which can be reached via the Litchfield Turnpike (Route 69).

#### Permitted Activities:

This site is for passive use only – no mechanized vehicles. Hiking only. Wading and swimming are prohibited. No fishing at this reservoir. Dogs are not permitted.

**For more information about this location and to obtain a permit— contact:**

Regional Water Authority  
Recreation Department  
(203) 401-2654  
[www.rwater.com/recreation](http://www.rwater.com/recreation)

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*Mapping for this brochure has been produced by John Triana of the Regional Water Authority.*

### South Central Regional Council of Governments

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West  
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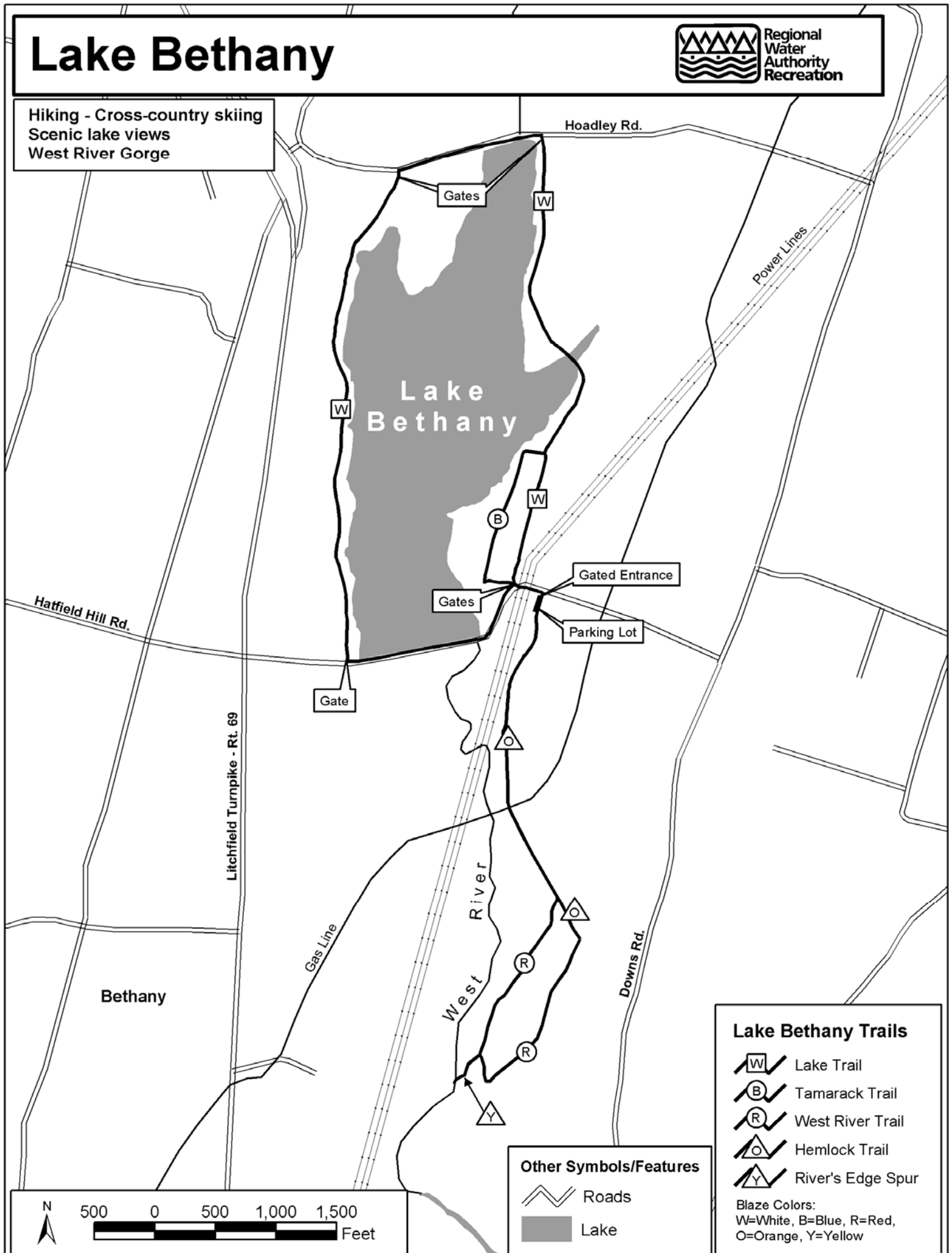
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# Lake Bethany



Regional  
Water  
Authority  
Recreation

Hiking - Cross-country skiing  
Scenic lake views  
West River Gorge



## Other Symbols/Features



## Lake Bethany Trails

- Lake Trail
- Tamarack Trail
- West River Trail
- Hemlock Trail
- River's Edge Spur

Blaze Colors:

W=White, B=Blue, R=Red,  
O=Orange, Y=Yellow



500 0 500 1,000 1,500  
Feet